

2-96

Washington County
Genealogical Society,
P.O. Box 567,
Plymouth, NC 27962.

WCGS NEWS
FEBRUARY 1996

A CARING FRIEND CROSSES THE BAR

Our area is saddened by the death, on January 17, of Doward N. Jones, Sr., owner-editor of the ROANOKE BEACON. This public-spirited, compassionate Gentleman will be sorely misses upon, and beyond, the South Shore.

This seems an opportune time to recall a story that some of our coast-to-coast membership may not know. It is but one example of the dedication of Doward, his family and their newspaper to our area and its needs.

Ten(or so)years ago, the ROANOKE BEACON applied for, and was awarded, a grant from the State of North Carolina. With the grant funds, the BEACON purchased microfilm readers for the two Washington County high schools, and a reader-printer for the Washington County Library. Micro-filmed copies of all extant editions of the BEACON(beginning in 1889) were also given to these institutions. This collection is periodically up-dated.

This splendid gift made our county library the only one in the four-county Pettigrew Regional Library system to have microfilm printing capability. Sadly, our sister Regional counties lack such capability to this day. They have had no one with the perceptiveness and generosity of Doward Jones and his ROANOKE BEACON.

NEXT MEETING

Sunday February 18, at the Washington County Library. The "program" will include practice in the "rough" mapping of our ancestors' land, using the old descriptions. Also, we will review the WCL's map resources. If you have a protractor and a scale(ruler), like you used in school, please bring them. This won't be a geometry class! Oh, Lord.NO! Fun's the name of the game.

IT'S HERE!!!

A good representation of WCGS members and other interested persons turned out on February 8 to welcome the new Minolta 603 microfilm reader-printer to the Washington County Library. Vicky Johnston, the Minolta sales rep., demonstrated the machine to the group and the Library staff. Several of our members, who had not used the Minolta elsewhere, got some hands-on experience.

The question has been asked,"What will happen to the older machine. given, some years ago, by the ROANOKE BEACON." After some seemingly needed repairs, it is hoped and expected that it will serve for many more years in our library. The new and the old will complement each other.

"THANK YOU"

How Sweet the Sound!

In December we gave all of our past Journals to Martin Community College's "Manning Room" historical/genealogical collection. Ms. Doris Little Wilson, Library Chairman, Martin County Historical Society, writes: "We want to thank the Washington County Genealogical Society for your donation of the Journals to our Manning Records Room. They will fill a large gap in our collection, for we do not have too much of Washington County. We hope your group will continue to visit our Records Room as we continue to collect materials".

With his renewal, Bobby R. Spruill of Virginia Beach says:" To you active members who keep this Society alive and going, thank you very much."

Our next-door neighbor, the dynamic new Tyrrell County Genealogical and Historical Society says, in its January NEWS:" Thank you, WCGS, for holding ...your June 1995 meeting in Creswell and fanning the fire that started the TCGHS....." Thank YOU, neighbors. We look forward to a long and mutually supportive relationship.

And from renewing members Ella and Ray Newbury, Livermore, CA:
"We enjoy your newsletters and the Journal----its a lot of work, but much appreciated."

(The editor is happy to call the Memberships' attention to the fact that Ella, Ray, and Bobby are, by no means, inactive, being contributors to both the Journal and the Queries.)

NEW MEMBERS

Betty Pledger, Creswell, NC(lives near Cross Landing, Tyrrell).
Betty is researching Spruill, Clayton, Davenport, Armstrong, Furlough, Phelps.

Zelda Pledger, Columbia, NC. Top priority: Pledger, Parish, Liverman, Jones, Sawyer.

Beaufort County Genealogical Society. Welcome!

The STILLMAN COMPANY

Thanks....and Farewell

Janis and John Stillman have closed their very nice shop near the south end of the Albemarle Sound Bridge. They will be missed. For many years, their store has been a favorite gathering place for genealogists from far and near. They sure know a heap about the families of eastern Washington and western Tyrrell Counties. John has the distinction of being the only person, to the best of our knowledge, to "wear-out" a copy of the WCGS transcription of the Census of 1860. And he sold a dozen copies for us...without accepting a commission.

FOLKLORE
WEATHER, MEDICINES, AND ALL THAT
WEATHER

A bit after mid-January, I encountered Malinda (Mrs. George) Galtress hard at work at the card catalogue in the Library. I had never suspected the nice young lady of clairvoyance, but she must surely have sensed that I was thinking of weather folklore. Out of a clear blue sky on that gray, threatening day, she said "It thundered Friday. It'll snow in ten days". Of course it would snow! For, like a silver refrain from the springtime of my youth, came back the old weather-lore: "If it thunders in winter, it will snow in ten days."

Well, it actually took 15 days for the freezing rain, sleet, and snow to get here, but arrive it did....with a vengeance. Malinda reasons that the extra five days may be attributed to the effect of 20th century inflation on perfectly valid centuries-old forecasting.

Today (Feb. 11) as Bobby Spruill and I stood in my front yard, there was a single, loud clap of thunder. Within minutes, Malinda rang up to warn of snow on the 21st.....or maybe the 26th. Mark your calendars!

MEDICINE

Chris Norman reports that our Journal with the true story of the Hyde County school teacher's treatment of her pupil's snakebite with stiff drinks of gin and a split-toad poultice has opened some eyes. It's hard for us to believe, isn't it, that Folklore students at WKyU didn't know such a simple-but-trusty remedy? Now, as spring approaches the Bluegrass region, It's expected that gin sales will soar, and that toad frogs will venture out at their peril.

Please, let's all help with a compilation of our old weather and medical lore. And the old words and phrases that are slipping into oblivion. Who can do it better than we? Who will do it if we don't? Time's a'wastin'!

QUERIES

- 1.- Need children of Jesse Ambrose who m. Sarah Crank 22 May 1780. Tyrrell.
2. Need children of Isaac Ambrose, son of Jesse and Sally, b. 1794 d. 1831.
- 3.- Need children of Isaac Ambrose b. 1831, and wife Mary.

Had one son, William, according to 1860 Census.

- 4.- Need any info. on both James Ambrose and wife Ruth Hair/Hare. m. 5 Jan 1784.

- 5- Lucretia Comstock Davenport petitioned for dower rights from deceased husband, Daniel 1810. No other records of her. Prob. wife of Job Comstock?? Before or after 1810??

6. Ann Louise(____) m. Jordan W. Hathaway. Half-sister of James I. Bateman and heir in 1854 of Nancy Davenport Bateman(____). Need any info. re. her family.

Please reply(1-6) to :Virginia C. Haire. 2276 Mt. Tabor rd., Creswell 27962

- 8.-Need any info Dawson Norman b. 1810. beleived b. Washington Co.

With John Norman acq. land E. of Durham's Cr, Beaufort Co., 1832.

Dawson's dau. Sarah Ann (b. 1847, d. 1927 Beaufort Co.) m. Benjamin Cavoss Toler. Ben and Sarah Ann my g-gparents.

Charles R. Toler. 511 Eskridge Drive, Wilmington, DE 19809 (302)764-3988

- 9.- Need father/parents of James L. Spruill b. 1829 or 1826. Tyrrell, near Wash. Co.line in "Scuppernong area. Had siblings Joseph and Charlotte . b. 1831; 1833.Old Bible shows James son of "Mary Moore", but doesn't name father. Bible gives James L's subsequent family. Bobby R. Spruill. 5144 Bellamy Manor Drive, Va. Beach, VA 23464

The Journal----it's TIME, again

Estimated publication date of the CIVIL WAR READER II is April 15. Please have your articles to the editor by (no later than) March 15. Our typist, Debbie Coker, expects to be "on the road" much this early spring. Don't overlook the "tales" of the war. Stories of the wives and families "home alone". Stories of the tough post-war years. Stories of us all... of the South Shore....Confederate and Unionist.....Black and White. There is so much. Let's tell it!

Thank you,
Ed Norman